



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FOIA-AFT-00-142

Tuesday
22 July 1996

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Burundi

Burundi: Armed Gang Attacks Gihanga Refugee Camp, Kills 3

EA2207165296 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1100 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gihanga camp for displaced people situated at village four was attacked last night by an armed gang. Three of the displaced people were killed and a soldier was wounded.

Burundi: Latest Attacks on Refugees Condemned

LD2207142696 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been a fresh attack in Burundi by rebel Hutus on a camp of displaced Tutsis to the north of Bujumbura, in which three people were killed last night. One of the soldiers guarding the camp was also injured, the Burundi army announced. This attack comes two days after the one in which 312 people were killed at Bugendana camp.

President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya condemned the 20 July tragedy in a speech broadcast by Burundi radio yesterday evening, denouncing those who perpetrated this massacre, who claim to be fighting for the restoration of democracy. The head of state called for his compatriots to join together in attempting to eliminate, once and for all, all the violence which has been devastating the country for more than two and a half years now.

Former president Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, for his part, has once again called for civil resistance, a call which has been heeded, to judge by the situation in Bujumbura this morning. The capital has been brought to a standstill. Gabriel Kahn is on the spot:

[Begin Kahn recording] The streets of Bujumbura were almost empty this morning and most of the offices were closed following the call for a general strike made by former president Bagaza to demonstrate against any foreign troops coming to [intervene in] the country. The students and secondary school pupils, who have been on strike for two weeks now, were almost the only ones to be moving about in the town, in groups (of a hundred or) [words indistinct], some brandishing sticks. They marched, singing, to Uprona's [Party of National Unity and Progress] duty office to demand, once again, the removal of the current government and to demonstrate their rejection of any foreign intervention.

This strike and student demonstration movement has spread to the second biggest town of the country, Gitega, which has been in mourning since 20 July over the massacre of 312 civilians by Hutu rebels.

The Frodebu [Front for Democracy in Burundi] party has decided to break its silence. In a statement published this morning, it condemns Saturday's [20 July] massacre and notes the current government's inability to guarantee citizens' safety. As a result, Frodebu is calling for regional military assistance to be given to Burundi as soon as possible. Gabriel Kahn in Bujumbura for RFI. [end recording]

In Bujumbura, the United Nations has expressed its dismay at Saturday's massacre. France has strongly condemned this massacre. [passage omitted]

Burundi: Cabinet Calls On Citizens Not To Avenge Bugendana Killings

EA2207204596 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1745 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Burundi's cabinet met today under the chairmanship of the head of state, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya. Cabinet members assessed the security situation prevailing in the country after the massacres of displaced people at Bugendana commune. Burundi ministers have condemned the attack. They have also appealed to Burundians to remain cool and not to avenge deaths. The cabinet has decided to bury tomorrow with due respect and honor people who died in [the] Bugendana attack. [passage omitted]

Burundi: Official Denies UNHCR Report on Forced Rwandan Repatriation

EA2207211796 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1745 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The UNHCR reports that there has been forced repatriation of Rwandan refugees from the northern province of Ngozi. However, the governor of that province rejected the UNHCR allegation, saying that the already registered repatriations have not been forced. Judith (Basutama) has more:

[Begin (Basutama) recording] [passage omitted] These last days, the UNHCR reports that those refugees are being forced to return to their country in violation of Vienna convention on refugees. According to the UNHCR, about 4,500 refugees were forced to leave Kibezi camp in Ngozi since last Friday [19 July].

Questioned on this, the governor of Ngozi, [word indistinct] Twagiramungu, said 2,200 Rwandan Hutu refugees left Kibezi camp for Rwanda. The camp hosted about 12,500 refugees. As to whether they were forced to leave, Governor Twagiramungu said the UNHCR texts [as heard] are totally outdated. [passage omitted] According to him, the UNHCR should therefore adapt its texts to the present situation instead of talking of

forced repatriation. He deplored, however, the fact that many refugees are intimidated with the complicity of the UNHCR agents.

Dr. (Kabyiza), a repatriation officer in Rwanda, for his part, deplored the lack of real cooperation of the UNHCR in Burundi. Friday's convoy, for instance, left in private vehicles, whereas the UNHCR generally provides for transportation to the common border. But, as he said, Rwanda is ready to welcome them and resettle them in their respective properties. [end recording]

Sao Tome & Principe

Sao Tome & Principe: Trovoada Wins Reelection With 52% of Vote

AB2207221096 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 22 Jul 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Miguel Trovoada has won a second five-year term as president of Sao Tome following yesterday's second round runoff between him and his predecessor, Manuel Pinto da Costa. Da Costa was in office from the time of independence right up until the introduction the multiparty system on the island five years ago. Our reporter, Sarah Alima, is in Sao Tome. On the line, Richard Lee asked her about the size of Trovoada's winning margin:

[Begin recording] [Alima] Most of the results have now come in and Mr. Miguel Trovoada has won with about

52 percent against 47 percent to Mr. Pinto da Costa. Final results will emerge within seven days but the tendency is irreversible. Trovoada has been reelected and it was a clear and expressive victory.

[Lee] And have the people been out celebrating at all?

[Alima] Yes, Trovoada's supporters are celebrating peacefully throughout the country, chanting, dancing, and shouting. In the capital, celebrations are going on right now in the streets. Most of the supporters are young people who participated strongly in the campaign.

[Lee] And has Trovoada's rival, Mr. da Costa, has he accepted the result?

[Alima] Yes, Mr. Pinto da Costa has accepted the result at about midday and congratulated his opponent for his victory. Pinto da Costa [word indistinct] the reelected president to promote stability and peace between all Sao Tomeans and said he is ready to collaborate.

[Lee] Now, has President Trovoada said what policies he might follow in the future? Will he stick to the same line as before these elections?

[Alima] We have to wait and see, but in his first speech, Mr. Trovoada indicated he will not change too much his behavior in the second mandate. This morning, Mr. (Carvus Nervius), the leader of the Independent Democratic Party, who supported Trovoada in this election, supported the (?approach) by the government and it could be an indication for the future. [end recording]

Eritrea

Eritrea: Afwerki on Friction With Sudan, Other Issues

MM2207161796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 20 Jul 96 p 2

[Interview with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab in Asmara; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ghurab] What was the nature of your visit to Saudi Arabia last week?

[Afwerki] It was a private and unofficial visit. I always like to pay unofficial working visits because they give me freedom of movement in relation to meetings with Saudi officials or businessmen. My meetings with them are flexible and easy.

[Ghurab] What issues did you discuss with Prince Sultan?

[Afwerki] The meeting was held in an atmosphere of understanding. We always and continuously discuss the region's issues and developments as well as bilateral issues of interest to the two countries, especially in the field of investment and development. The Kingdom has projects in Eritrea in the sectors of electricity, services, health, and education. The development of relations falls in the context of the efforts made and encouragement given to investors from the Kingdom in Eritrea. The meeting with Prince Sultan dealt with these issues.

[Ghurab] It has been reported that your visit to Saudi Arabia was for health reasons. Could you tell us about your health?

[Afwerki] My health is excellent and fine. I do not suffer from any disease. On my visits to the Kingdom, and especially my private visits, I always take the opportunity to undergo some medical tests because Saudi Arabia is considered one of the best and most advanced states in the region in the medical field. My visit was not for the purpose of tests but, as I have said, for the purpose of meeting with Saudi officials and businessmen. After the tests I underwent at the military hospital in Riyadh I discovered that my health is better than the doctors thought.

[Ghurab] What programs and incentives has the Eritrean Government come up with to attract Saudi investments, and what guarantees?

[Afwerki] The government is fully convinced that development cannot be achieved through public sector or government efforts nor through aid from foreign governments but rather through promotion of an appropriate climate for local and foreign investors, especially investors from the Red Sea and Gulf areas. That is why

the government has drawn up policies geared towards encouraging investment. There is also stable security, which helps the implementation of investment projects and encourages investors in Eritrea.

Eritrea's strategic position also plays an important part. The success of the government and the society in the implementation of development projects over a short period of time is an encouragement to investors. We have been able to revive the development projects which had been suspended as a result of the war, and that includes building roads and opening various channels of communication. We have temporarily been able to solve the problems of energy and electricity in order to create a suitable atmosphere for investors.

[Ghurab] Are there any plans for signing an economic agreement with Saudi Arabia or for securing Saudi investments?

[Afwerki] There are Saudi companies operating in Eritrea in the fishing sector, and there are small and medium-size companies engaged in various activities. There is increasing interest every day. The guarantees are already in place between the Kingdom and Eritrea because of their good and solid relations.

[Ghurab] What fields will you be seeking to attract investors to?

[Afwerki] There are fish resources, tourism, agriculture, and industry, especially textiles and hides. Raw materials, expertise, and labor are all available. These are vast sectors and there are great opportunities available.

[Ghurab] What are the difficulties standing in the way of extricating the country from the situation it found itself in after the long war for independence?

[Afwerki] We might have reached the point of a forward surge toward development. The phase we are going through is perhaps a phase of transition from that situation to the phase of reconstruction and restitution of the society and the economy, and development. It will not be long before we reap the fruits, especially in the sectors where we have managed to tackle the problems we inherited and the destruction of the infrastructures. There are probably no traces left of the problems which occurred during the war. The town of Mits'iwa is the best proof. Those who saw it in 1991 saw a ruined town with hardly any building not damaged. Now there are no traces of the effect of the war there. That is one of the changes which occurred and it shows the extent of seriousness which has brought everyone together in rebuilding the town. I do not exaggerate when I say that in two years we will have overcome all the difficulties standing in the way of reconstruction of all that was destroyed during the war of liberation.

[Ghurab] What were the problems you faced during the reconstruction and rehabilitation? And are the problems you face now economic?

[Afwerki] The problems we are facing are basically economic, but what is most important is our method of tackling these problems, because the country's resources are limited and the challenges were greater than the state's resources. We certainly consider that the successes made over a short period of time are unprecedented in the region.

[Ghurab] What cooperation is there between you and the states of the region, and particularly Saudi Arabia, on safeguarding Red Sea security?

[Afwerki] The Red Sea is considered a strategic and vital waterway of interest to the states of the region in particular and the world in general, and it requires contribution. We cannot expect states from outside the region to come and protect that waterway. Perhaps the circumstances, especially during the Cold War, and the regional and international political complications at the time did not allow the states of the region to consider their roles and contributions to ensure security of that waterway. We are now entering a phase of awareness and consciousness, but the mechanism and grounds between the Red Sea littoral states have not sufficiently crystallized into cooperation and steps have not begun towards joint coordination among the states of the region to determine their role and contribution to the security of that vital passageway. There is certainly a decisive and special role for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Eritrea is a small state with humble resources, but it could make a humble contribution and be one of the countries interested in finding a mechanism for cooperation in this region. Eritrea would definitely be at the forefront of the states that would support any constructive initiative for cooperation in the interest of security and stability in the Red Sea states.

[Ghurab] Do you see the signing of the Paris agreement between Eritrea and Yemen to be the way to solve the problem between the two countries, or has that been frozen?

[Afwerki] I have had reservations from the beginning on that matter because I believe that there is no crisis between the two countries. Perhaps at the time there were exaggerations created by the relevant time and place. There was, from the beginning, a way to contain them through arbitration but, most regrettably, the attitude of some Yemeni officials or perhaps the element or atmosphere of surprise complicated the issue, leading it to the point it has reached between the two countries. But now and after the signing of the agreement matters have returned to normal and there is no crisis or rather

we do not expect any crisis between Yemen and Eritrea as a result of the dispute over the islands. That matter is considered closed and we hope that Yemen and Eritrea will look to the future without seeing what happened as something that should affect normal relations between the two countries.

[Ghurab] In what way do you consider the matter closed?

[Afwerki] We have agreed to find a solution through arbitration and now we are in the process of finding and forming the relevant court. There are some procedural problems we are negotiating on and we will certainly have a definite formula by the end of the year if we resolve the procedural issues and the court will be formed and the outstanding issues will be left to it so long as the two parties are committed to a solution through arbitration, and we will abide by the results of the arbitration. I do not believe that there is a problem and I believe that the issue is over and there is no justification for pessimism regarding the court's verdict.

[Ghurab] Are there any contacts between you and Yemeni officials?

[Afwerki] Perhaps not at the same level which existed before the events but we believe that that is natural until matters return to what they were before the problem started. That requires time. The current negotiations regarding the court, and agreement to eliminate the anomalies — and they should be eliminated through goodwill, willingness, and initiative on both sides — will certainly eliminate the current misunderstanding.

[Ghurab] Is there an intention to hold a summit between you and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih?

[Afwerki] That is not an essential issue. A summit meeting between me and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih could contribute to and speed up any action, whether there is arbitration or anything else, by seeing relations between Eritrea and Yemen as something that goes beyond the problems which have occurred between the two countries. We never considered meetings as something related to internal problems that would make us fear such meetings. I do not believe that matters can be one-sided. They should stem from convictions and willingness on both sides when circumstances allow such meetings.

[Ghurab] Did France's role end with the signing of the agreement between Yemen and Eritrea?

[Afwerki] We cannot say that its role is over. France's role was one of facilitating agreement. That fundamental

part has now been completed. Now will come the arbitration process after formation of the court. The French role as such might take second place of importance.

[Ghurab] There are those who claim that Eritrea has, after the liberation, been seeking expansion by fabricating crises with Sudan, Yemen, and Djibouti. What is your answer to that?

[Afwerki] Historical facts should perhaps be the judge of that. Sudan is a large country and the Sudanese people are fraternal people and their relations with the Eritrean people date back centuries. The strategic relations between the two peoples and the cooperation which has existed between them for more than three decades as represented by the Sudanese people's support for the Eritrean people are highly appreciated in the heart of Eritrea. Relations are bad at present because of the policies of the National Islamic Front [NIF] which targets not only Eritrea but also the states of the region and the world. The NIF policy is based on a strategy and ideology. The NIF's congresses have unashamedly voiced its expansionist strategies, which seek to change not only the Sudanese society but all other societies as well. Eritrea has no resources, capabilities, or expansionist ambitions in Sudan. Any Eritrean who contemplates expansion in the direction of Sudan is probably mad. The crisis with Djibouti was artificial. We have a popular proverb in Eritrea which says "if the wood falls hit it more and more with an axe." The Sudanese media played a major part in igniting the crisis, and so did the media in some other states, and some Yemeni officials tried to spread the claim that Eritrea is an expansionist state that fabricates crises and problems. Eritrea has just come out of a long war. It does not need any more wars or problems. It wants stability and it wants to catch its breath and build itself. It cannot possibly have any expansionist illusions. On the contrary, others might have expansionist intentions and have the opportunities to distort views by distorting facts. Eritrea is not and will never be an expansionist state.

[Ghurab] What is the truth about the crisis in your relations with Djibouti, and is that over?

[Afwerki] There was originally no problem. It came as a surprise. I was attending the conference of the IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] in Kenya when Ethiopian officials told me that Djibouti was accusing Eritrea of opening fire on the borders. We heard the accusations indirectly. When I returned from Kenya I sent the foreign minister to Djibouti with a message to the Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. When he arrived at the president's palace he found a state of alert and extreme tension

there. He contacted me and told me that the officials in Djibouti were accusing Eritrean border units of opening fire. We requested evidence from them and I contacted the border units, who assured me that there was no firing. I asked the foreign minister, before he left Djibouti, to seek an explanation from the officials there because this was a serious matter that would undermine relations between the two countries.

But the officials in Djibouti insisted that there was firing from the Eritrean side. So, with that charged and disturbing atmosphere I assumed that they were having internal problems and were exploiting that incident for internal considerations. Then we were surprised by reports that Djibouti was about to broadcast a statement on the incident. The statement said that the Eritrean forces opened fire on the Djibouti side. The officials later found out that there was no firing, and all diplomatic and other means established that there was no such thing. When we asked them about the source of that tendentious information they emphasized that the soldiers on the border saw a shell falling in the sea.

[Ghurab] Why did relations between Eritrean and Sudan deteriorate? What, in your view, were the reasons?

[Afwerki] The Sudanese regime came up with strategic illusions and began applying policies and acting along those lines. That regime has its ambitions as well as internal problems. That NIF only had the support of 6 percent of the Sudanese people. The staging of a coup to seize power was a result of political frustrations and problems. It did not reach power through popular means or popular support nor as a result of political influence on the society. It came in implementation of its own designs by means of a coup.

After the coup its policies were declared at the congresses I have mentioned, and it in practice began to support subversive and terrorist groups. The question is what are the economic, political, and military capabilities of that front that make it entertain the mad notion of changing the world, its cultures, and regimes? The Egyptians, the Ethiopians, the Ugandans, the Kenyans, and the Nigerians have suffered as a result of that problem. The NIF strategy goes even further than that. Algeria is targeted and so is Tunisia, and Mauritania. All its links are suspect links.

The process began in 1989, when the NIF began creating imaginary groups and imposing them on the Eritrean society. At the beginning we said that those people perhaps did not understand the Eritrean society, and we attributed that to their stupidity. Then we entered into a dialogue with them for four years. It was all deception, because they would promise to stop the activities of the groups one day only to resume

them the next. We began to despair and lose hope of finding a solution through constructive dialogue. The regime went beyond supporting elements which benefit from the NIF to involving foreigners like Moroccans, Yemenis, Egyptians, and Tunisians in such operations. We confirmed these facts in statements and we tried to continue the negotiations with the regime in order to persuade it to stop these practices.

Deception became one of the features of that regime in words and deeds. In the end we complained to the United Nations but to no avail. Even the Security Council did not cooperate with us in the search for a solution to that problem, and the problem reached the point of boycott and we severed our relations with the regime and decided to defend our national interests through a strategy of depending on our own capabilities. I say that last year's attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia was one of the main features of the actions of the regime and one of the facts which proved what it stood for. We in Eritrea had hoped that the NIF would see the value of relations between region's states emerging from wars such as Ethiopia, Sudan, and other states in the Horn of Africa and would overcome all these difficulties, but it proceeded to complicate matters and involved all these states in problems they could have done without. I believe that the cause of the problems and instability between Eritrea and Sudan is the NIF. In fact, the instability of the region's states is a result of the actions and policies of the NIF's regime.

[Ghurab] On the other hand, the Sudanese president accuses Eritrea of interfering in Sudanese affairs.

[Afwerki] There is a popular Sudanese proverb which says: "He hit me and wept and then complained before I could do so." The fact that Sudan accuses Eritrea of interference in its internal affairs and tries to convince others of that is no more than a joke and a laughable story. That regime is based on lies and fabrications. It does whatever it likes and then turns the facts upside down. What is there for Eritrea to gain from interference in Sudanese affairs? And what interest would any Eritrean have in seeing his state interfering in the affairs of others when it needs to build itself and harness its resources to overcome its own plight?

[Ghurab] But Sudan has directly accused Eritrea of harboring Sudanese opposition groups in Eritrea?

[Afwerki] There is nothing new on that score. There is a historical link between Eritrea and the various Sudanese parties such as the al-Ummah Party, the Unionist Party, the Communist party, and others. We did not create the political forces in Sudan. They are political forces which existed in the Sudanese political arena even before our

independence. Before liberation in 1991 we had links with all active parties and we always explained to the brothers in Khartoum that Sudan's history, its political history, cannot change overnight whatever the ambitions and concepts of any political force, and that there can be no military solution to the problem of southern Sudan. That is why we joined in the constructive efforts to persuade the regime not to be carried away or to be isolated and to initiate dialogue despite rejection by the northern parties. The NIF believes that it represents all the north and that the dialogue should be with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) because there was an implicit recognition of that army. When IGADD began its initiative to find a peaceful solution to the problem of the south there were contacts with the southerners and the other political forces in the north were also a part of that political process. If anyone imagines that there are radical solutions to all Sudan's problems and not just the problem of southern Sudan, then there has to be some accord. We did not create these regimes and other political organizations. After the estrangement, we realized that that regime did not represent the aspirations of the Sudanese people or the Eritrean people and we severed diplomatic relations with it. Our relations are certainly with the opposition but that does not mean interference in Sudanese internal affairs in any way. It is nothing new because we had severed relations with the regime and we stressed that we do not apply double standards. And there is nothing new in our relations with the other forces and we will maintain these relations with them, whether they are from the north or the south, and we do not care about the existence of that regime because what is important is Sudan's stability and finding solutions to its problems.

[Ghurab] A large number of Eritreans live in Sudan. What, in your view, are the repercussions of the bad relations for them?

[Afwerki] The problem is with the regime in Sudan. The pressures and the harassment to which the Eritreans in Sudan are subjected are increasing every day. They face deportation. The Eritreans have been living in Sudan for over 50 years. The borders were open borders before demarcation by imperialism.

[Ghurab] Do you expect the tension to develop into armed confrontation with Khartoum?

[Afwerki] An armed conflict between the two countries is impossible, not because Eritrea is not ready or does not have the will but because of numerous considerations. There have been excesses by the Sudanese Army or the agents organized and armed by the government in Khartoum. There have been hundreds of such excesses,

but even if there was an all-out attack on us by the regime, there would be ways of containing it.

At present there are concentrations on the border. The Sudanese Army might have begun concentrating its units and strengthening its presence on the borders for known reasons, namely that the regime there wants to create a problem to focus attention on Eritrea, and the activities of the Sudanese opposition has been increasing and annoying the regime in Khartoum. The Sudanese rulers perhaps see in the fabrication of a confrontation with us an opportunity to draw attention, as they did in Hala'ib when they portrayed the situation there as one of foreign aggression. Now there is no such thing as a Hala'ib issue because all the cards have been exhausted and the Sudanese people no longer believe the claims of the NIF, which is now trying to make new fabrications claiming that Eritrea wants to expand and that there is a possibility of military clashes. The aim behind that is to divert the attention of the Sudanese to the outside world and away from the situation in Sudan itself. Nobody can possibly think that there would be armed clashes between Sudan and Eritrea one day.

[Ghurab] Why did you resort to the United Nations for the settlement of your problems with Sudan?

[Afwerki] Eritrea went to the United Nations and the Security Council because it lost all hope from direct attempts or attempts through a third party to solve the problem. I do not believe that there are circumstances or opportunities for mediation because the matter does not require mediation because there is no dispute between us and that regime and no problem of our making. That regime has been seeking to change the features of every society, impose a particular ideology, and acts in no particular pattern through terrorist operations. If it changes these practices there would be no reason for anyone to take a hostile stand against the regime in Khartoum. In my view, the problem and its solution are in the hands of the regime.

The Sudanese regime has become a hindrance to any normal relations between the people and the neighbors. If we weigh the losses of the past five years, if we assess in economic terms the losses, the destruction, and the isolation inflicted on the Sudanese people in addition to the security and political crises in Sudan, we would realize that the only losers are the Sudanese people, who have been set back dozens of years over a short period of time. We do not believe that any mediator can find a solution now. There are maneuvers, theatricals, and deception attempts by the Sudanese regime. We do not believe that they are serious because they came after the failure of all the regime's attempts to impose its

domination and its expansionist policy on the region and beyond.

[Ghurab] Am I to understand that your acceptance of mediation would depend on the Sudanese Government changing its policies.

[Afwerki] The economic and security situations are now in a state of collapse. The continuation in power of the regime or the NIF is now very questionable. Some people within the regime are aware of that and they are maneuvering and have started bargaining contacts with many states with a view to deporting some people living in Sudan or closing certain offices. In their contacts with these states they wanted to know what they wanted from Sudan. The problem is that Sudan created a problem by harboring terrorist elements and it began dealing with certain groups to overthrow regimes. It created problems for some societies. The Sudanese regime is currently maneuvering to show good intentions by expelling some terrorist organizations. The Carlos case was a deal with the French. Anyone watching Sudanese events closely cannot be fooled by such tactics. The extradition of Carlos cannot be seen as a step denoting a change of the regime's policies or lines. I and others following the situation in Sudan believe that these are maneuvers. The problems Sudan is currently facing are the result of its concepts and views. For matters to return to normal, there should be a return to the era before the NIF.

[Ghurab] Do you admit the existence of opposition, and do you have any contacts with it?

[Afwerki] We do not recognize the existence of opposition and, therefore, we have no contacts with it.

[Ghurab] Do you believe that your regime is a democratic regime?

[Afwerki] We do not believe that there is a particular interpretation of democracy. I do not believe that there is democracy in the United States, France, or Britain. These states have their own special brand of democracy suited to their societies and their history. We too have our own special conditions and character which necessitate that we have a political system suited to our society and our circumstances. I always have reservations about talking about something called democracy. We are a small society and we do not need parties or divisions, and we do not need to become another Somalia. We want to proceed slowly to create a civilized society and a political system that would be suitable to our conditions and would give us stability. If there are Eritreans abroad dealing with a regime such as the Khartoum regime, we consider them agents serving the interests of foreign powers. Anyone wishing to

oppose the government's programs should do so inside Eritrea.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia: 'Thousands' Trained for New National Defense Force

EA2207213796 Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia
International Service in English 1630 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Defense in a statement it issued today announced that efforts geared toward building a multinational defense force for the uniform leadership and organization have been highly successful.

The national composition of the defense army was made proportional, following the demobilization of TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front] combatants in the EPRDF [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front], as this was observed in the three-day review meeting the ministry held to assess its performance in the 1988 Ethiopian calendar [1995/96] in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Tamirat Layne, Chief of Staff Major General Tsadkan Gebre Tensae and other high officials.

According to the statement, thousands of youngsters from Oromiya, Amhara and southern people's regional states were recruited and trained in basic military science and politics to join the National Defense Force. The statement added militiamen from various political organizations who were active in the struggle against the totalitarian Dergue regime, including a multitude of Afar, Gambela and Somali nationals, have joined the ranks of the new National Defense Force after passing through the proper military training. Ex-servicemen who were found to be loyal to the Constitution with promising professional competence have also joined the defense force.

Kenya

Kenya: Nanyuki Police Arrest, Release Opposition Party Activists

EA2207145696 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
22 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by DAILY NATION correspondents: "Muite, Safina Activists Held"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Police in Nanyuki yesterday arrested [opposition] Kikuyu [Constituency] MP Paul Muite and other Safina [unregistered opposition party] activists when they went to present trophies and balls to volleyball teams involved in a local competition. Police had to fire twice in the air to push back a crowd of

people which pelted them with stones as they escorted Mr. Muite and the others to Nanyuki Police Station. The Safina activists were released after being held for more than two hours. [passage omitted]

Somalia

Somalia: 11 Killed in Factional Fighting

AB2207163296 Paris AFP in English
1313 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, July 22 (AFP) — At least 11 people were killed and 13 were wounded overnight when militiamen loyal to Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid and those supporting his rival Ali Mahdi Mohamed clashed in south Mogadishu, officials said Monday [22 July].

Fighting erupted when Ali Mahdi's fighters tried to dislodge Aidid's militiamen from parts of the Medina enclave of south Mogadishu they occupied early this month, according to Abdi Hassan Awale Qeybdiid, an ally of Ali Mahdi.

Qeybdiid, who commands the forces of Osman Ali Atto, Aidid's other foe, said Aidid's men were driven out of their positions.

Independent reports, however, indicated that Aidid's militiamen managed to recapture territory they had lost before fighting died down early on Monday.

Osman Atto's radio accused Aidid's militia of indiscriminately shelling Medina.

The latest round of fighting brings to 13 the number of people killed in south Mogadishu during the past 24 hours.

Two people died and seven were wounded when a mortar round, fired by one of the warring factions, landed near a camp for displaced people in the city on Sunday, witnesses said.

The city had been relatively calm for 10 days following a new round of bloodletting during which more than 60 people were killed and scores wounded.

Meanwhile last Friday, a group in north Mogadishu announced formation of an organization "to promote human rights" in the strife-torn Horn of Africa country.

It will be called Doctor Ismail center for Human Rights in memory of Somali human rights activist Ismail Jumale Ossoble, who died six years ago.

Ossoble's widow, Mariam, said the group had the moral support of Amnesty International, adding that the organization had "encouraged her to revive the pure ideas of my late husband."

Somalia has been ruled by warlords since the overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. UN troops pulled out in March last year after their peace mission failed.

Somalia: Ato Faction Accuses Aidid of Mortaring Civilians

EA2207203696 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of Somali Pacification in Somali 1630 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released by the USC-SNA [United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance] disclosed today that the self-styled group of Aidid was guilty of mortaring civilian residences in Mogadishu. The statement reiterated that the USC-SNA had repeatedly proved that the mortars bombs were being fired from the radio transmission station at Daynile, the Bula Shodey Estate, the milk factory

and the Damanyo camp. The self-styled group were directing the mortars at the civilian residences and bases of the USC-SNA and their objective was to incite the people of south Mogadishu against the USC-SNA. The statement said the USC-SNA greatly regretted the problems being encountered by innocent civilians and called on the Somali people as follows:

1. Not to allow the digging of defense trenches as bases for various types of artillery.
2. If they are not able to neutralize the trenches, then they should keep away from the hideouts of the self-styled militia.
3. The USC-SNA clarifies that, as promised, it will not mortar civilian residences which are not hideouts for the self-styled group.

Angola**Angola: Remains of 50 Possible Execution Victims Found**

*MB2307062696 London BBC World Service
in Portuguese 2030 GMT 22 Jul 96*

[From the "Londres, Ultima Hora" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The remains of more than 50 people, who might be the victims of a massacre, were found at Cuanda base, Soyo, during a minesweeping operation. Anacleto Teixeira, regional manager of minesweeping company Teleservicos, said local residents believe there are more corpses. The remains were found three weeks ago. Teixeira quoted the residents as saying that more than 500 people, mostly police agents and civilians, had been executed.

In the past, people could not come near Cuanda base because of the nauseating smell from decomposing bodies. A resident said the corpses could be of government supporters captured by National Union for the Total Independence of Angola guerrillas when the movement flattened the area to the ground in May 1993.

The remains have been piled up and marked with flags. Some of the skeletons have signs of bullet wounds, while others are still dressed in uniforms and carry military insignia. Teixeira says his company has reported the matter to police, but no official investigation has started.

In addition to the remains, Teleservicos personnel also found a container reportedly used as a torture chamber. The container had 11 nooses hanging from the ceiling and names written on the walls.

Cuanda base is an administrative and residential area for foreign oil companies operating in the Soyo region on the border with Zaire.

Botswana**Botswana: Foreign Minister Says Namibian Interference 'Regrettable'**

*MB2207195096 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network
in English 1910 GMT 22 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister for foreign affairs, Lieutenant General Mompoti Merafhe, says Botswana will find an alternative source to purchase military equipment for the Botswana Defense Force. He says it is regrettable that Namibia is interfering in Botswana's internal affairs by questioning the purchase of military equipment, and that as a country, Botswana has the right to decide what it wants to buy. General Merafhe said this at a joint news conference in Gaborone this evening,

with the visiting German deputy chancellor and foreign minister, Dr. Klaus Kinkel.

Botswana has negotiated a deal with the Dutch Government for the purchase of German-made Leopard tanks, which the Namibian Government is opposed to. Dr. Kinkel told journalists that when the Dutch bought the tanks from the German Government, they entered into a deal in which they could not sell the equipment without Germany's consent. He said the Dutch Government admitted having not consulted Germany at first.

Dr. Kinkel confirmed that the Namibian Government discussed the matter with them during a recent visit to Germany by the Namibian President, but he denied that their decision was influenced by Namibia, saying his government has a strict policy on the sale of arms. Dr. Kinkel and General Merafhe said the blocking of the purchase of the tanks has had no effect on the excellent relations between Botswana and Germany.

Meanwhile, the president, Sir Ketumile Masire, says the visit by Dr. Kinkel is indicative of the good relationship that exists between Botswana and Germany. Speaking in Gaborone today during his meeting with Dr. Kinkel, he said the visit will also help attract German investment into Botswana. Sir. Ketumile said the end of the Cold War and the unification of Germany were some of the factors which helped speed up democracy in Africa. He also said the southern African region is able to work reasonably well because of the positive political developments in countries such as Namibia and South Africa.

Botswana: Germany's Veto of Tank Purchase Overshadows Kinkel Visit

*MB2207182196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1731 GMT 22 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GABORONE JULY 22 SAPA-DPA — Germany's decision to veto the sale of 31 Leopard tanks to Botswana on Monday [22 July] overshadowed the first day of German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's visit to the southern African country.

Botswana Foreign Minister Mompoti Merafhe told reporters his government was "very disappointed" and "deeply regretted" the Bonn government's position on the German-made Leopard tanks recently purchased from the Netherlands for about 750,000 dollars.

Botswana needed the tanks and would now have to look for other sources for the weaponry, Merafhe said, adding, "In my talks with Mr Kinkel, I made our views very clear."

At the foreign ministers' joint conference, Kinkel defended the Bonn position saying the Leopard 1 tanks

in question had originated in Germany and a German-Dutch agreement stipulated they should not be passed on to third countries.

The German government first learned of the tank sale from press reports and had since informed the Netherlands that it would not approve the deal.

Kinkel confirmed that Botswana's neighbour Namibia had tried to stop the arms exports during talks with German government officials. The Bonn decision had been taken on principle, however, and was not directed against Botswana.

Military spending in the diamond-rich country has sparked debate following the completion of a multi-million dollar air base some 80 kilometres north of capital last year.

Critics of the government say there is no need for large military expenditures after the end of apartheid rule in South Africa. But the government maintains it must act tough on cross-border crime and poaching while remaining active in international peacekeeping efforts.

Kinkel arrived Monday for his first visit to Botswana at the start of a week-long southern African tour that will also take him to South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Kinkel, accompanied by four German parliamentarians, businessmen and journalists, was earlier greeted by Merafhe at the Gaborone airport.

While in Botswana, Kinkel will meet President Quett Ketumile Masire, Vice President and Finance Minister Festus Mogae and leader of the Botswana National Front opposition party, Kenneth Koma.

Kinkel, who is also Germany's deputy chancellor, is to hold talks on European economic cooperation with officials at the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), a 12-nation economic and political grouping based in Gaborone.

Madagascar

Madagascar: Parliament To Vote on Impeaching President

EA2307100696 Antananarivo Radio Nationale
Malagasy Network in Malagasy 1600 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An impeachment motion against the president of the Republic was handed over today to the permanent bureau of the National Assembly. The impeachment motion was officially signed by 95 MP's out of a total of 138. Voting on the impeachment motion will take place in the morning of 26 July. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Mozambique: Manica Governor Denies Renamo Leader's Claims

MB2207151896 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader Afonso Dhlakama said in Beira last week that the police in Manica Province have been killing his party members and sympathizers, alleging they are the so-called Chimwenjes [Torch]. In a telephone interview this morning, Manica Provincial Governor Artur Canana commented on Dhlakama's allegations.

[Begin recording] [Canana] There was no and there has never been any persecution of any Mozambican citizen or foreigner in this province, let alone of Renamo members. What has been happening in this province, and I believe throughout the country, is that the police are carrying out their work, hunting down criminals. Different news media outlets have been reporting what is going on in Dombe District. The police are carrying out their work there. People who have been detained so far have confessed that they were working on Renamo's orders. Now I do not know whether Mr. Dhlakama is referring to that. All I know is that the police are hunting down criminals who endanger peace, stability, and progress.

A gentleman who was a Renamo representative in this province was detained some time back in the city of Chimoi. This man had firearms. The matter was reported by the residents of the ward where he lived. Obviously, he was arrested by the police who found him in possession of weapons. He has now been brought before the court. As a matter of fact, all cases of people caught committing crimes or found in possession of weapons have been brought before the courts.

I am not aware of any citizen who was tortured or killed for being a Renamo member. I would like to publicly deny this. Mr. Dhlakama is either misinformed or wants to indirectly say something.

[Unidentified correspondent] Well, you have just said the police are operating in Dombe. Are Chimwenjes still present in Dombe or other corners of Manica Province?

[Canana] Yes, yes, we are still carrying out work in Dombe. I would like to point out that, as the police continue to carry out their work, they are detecting Renamo involvement. A number of people detained by the police have links to Renamo. They were either guerrillas or people who took part in the struggle alongside Renamo. This involvement is

becoming more noticeable as the police deal with Chimwenjes in Dombe. At the present moment, we are carrying out work in southern Dombe and we have already reached Mossurize District where four people shot at and plundered a shop in Goi-Goi. The assailants were persecuted and one of them was hacked by the residents. That is the type of thing that is happening on the ground. Nobody has asked the residents to take that type of action. The residents act that way because they feel repulsion. (end recording)

Swaziland

Swaziland: King Expected To Name New Prime Minister 26 Jul

MB2307073896 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 23 Jul 96 pp 1, 32

[Report by Walter Dlamini]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ludzidzini — His Majesty King Mswati III has summoned the nation to Ludzidzini Royal Kraal on Friday (July 26, 1996) at 10:30 am, presumably to announce the next Prime Minister.

The King made this announcement through Indvuna [governor] Lusendvo Fakudze at Ludzidzini Royal Residence at 12:30 p.m. yesterday.

His Majesty is calling the nation for the second time in three months' time. On May, the king dismissed Prince Mbilini from the office of prime minister in a

meeting with the nation. He also opened the People's Parliament which was attended by President Quett Masire of Botswana and the South African Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo.

Swaziland has been without a prime minister since then and the Deputy Premier, Sishayi Nxumalo has been acting.

The delay in the appointment has been blamed on the teachers' strike which lasted for a whole month.

The delay has also been attributed to the person earmarked for the post who was, according to speculation, given time to wind-up his other business and get ready for the post.

The appointment of the next PM will be done by the king through consultation with the newly appointed Swazi National Council.

The king is also expected to announce at the Royal cattle byre the constitutional committee which will collect views from the people on the desired new charter. Recently, Acting Prime Minister, Sishayi Nxumalo said the names of the committee members are now ready to be announced.

Indvuna Lusendvo could not disclose the agenda when asked after the announcement.

People from different places are expected to gather in their numbers at the Royal Cattle Byre.

Ghana

**Ghana: Guinean Ship Docks at Tema Port With
Ghanaians, Liberians**

**AB2307090796 Accra Ghana Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English
0600 GMT 23 Jul 96**

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Guinean vessel yesterday berthed at the Tema Port with 307 Ghanaians and 10 Liberian refugees from Monrovia. The Ghanaians are mostly fishermen and their families. Mr. Bill Smith of the Link Liberia Incorporated, which chartered the vessel, told journalists that they sought permission from the Ghanaian authorities, while the Liberians were also cleared before boarding the ship.

Ten of the Ghanaians who stowed away on the vessel because they could not afford the fare of \$70 per passenger were warned and allowed to disembark on humanitarian grounds. The vessel set off from the Port of Monrovia last Friday [19 July].

Niger

Niger: House Arrest for Political Leaders Lifted

**AB2307090196 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 23 Jul 96**

[FBIS Translated Text] Niger's General Ibrahim Bare Maïnassara is playing the card of reconciliation and unity following his election as head of state. He has lifted the house arrest order against his four opponents, who were defeated in the 7 and 8 July presidential elections.

**Niger: Detainees Released; Interior Minister Omar
Comments**

**AB2207140496 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1200 GMT 22 Jul 96**

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who were arrested and held in police custody at Gankale prior to, during, and after the presidential election were released late this morning. Interior Minister Idriss Ango Omar, who personally notified them of their release, explains to Shehu Zabagadou the significance of this act by the National Salvation Council (CSN) and the government.

[Begin Omar recording] I would like to tell you that with the 27 January event many of our compatriots thought we were entering a period of a state of emergency. It must be stressed that this is not the case. The CSN and the government have clearly demonstrated their readiness to strive for the rule of law and a democratic state. Despite the 27 July interruption, I believe the head of state, the CSN, and the government have

shown ample proof of this through their acts, behavior, and their determination to quickly establish democratic institutions with a democratically elected president.

A number of people were arrested in the runup to, during, and after the election. In accordance with the rule of law, every arrested person had a charge preferred against him. The duty of the state is to guarantee peace and security. Everyone is free to move about but anyone who carries out an act contrary to the rule of law or contrary to the determination to restore peace in this country will face the full rigors of the law. This is why, today, following the proclamation of the results, the president has granted an amnesty for the reconciliation of hearts and minds so that the Nigerois who were engaged in opposition due to political passions can forget this political divide and think only of Niger.

In his speech yesterday, President Maïnassara stretched out his hands to all his compatriots including his political opponents. Even as I speak, he is meeting with them individually and even the house arrest measures taken will quickly be lifted so that all Nigerois will reunite as a single family and work correctly.

However, there is surely a caveat. Be it members of the democratic renewal or members of any political party, anyone who carries out acts of sabotage against the nation's interests will face the full rigors of the law. I believe, today, President Maïnassara wants reconciliation and peace, and I hope this appeal will be heeded by all Nigerois including those who have just regained their freedom, and I hope everyone will strive for the nation's development. [end recording]

Nigeria

**Nigeria: Abiola 'Rushed' to Clinic on Hearing of
Wife's Death**

**AB2207224396 (Clandestine) Radio Democrat
International in English 2100 GMT 22 Jul 96**

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military officials have confirmed that detained president elect, Bashirun Moshood Abiola, was last Wednesday [17 July] rushed to the State House Clinic, Abuja. Sources said that the president elect, who looked jaded, was treated for hypertension, a health problem which was probably heightened as a result of the news of his wife's assassination. Dr. Orefalomo, his personal physician, has consistently stressed that Bashirun Abiola is very hypertensive. The president elect was last week returned to detention but there was no immediate confirmation of his state of health.

Nigeria: Meeting Between Opposition, Government Canceled

*AB2207223296 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 22 Jul 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hopes of a meeting between the Nigerian military government and the opposition to discuss the country's three-year long political price crisis have proved to be short-lived. It was scheduled to take place today in the hometown of Chief Ajasin, the leader of the main opposition coalition Nadeco [National Democratic Coalition]. But this morning, Chief Alex Akinyele, the chairman of the government's National Reconciliation Committee called it off at the last minute. On the line to Owo, Kodjo Badu-Addo, asked Chief Ajasin's spokesman, Joe Aladeshun, how they had learned about the postponement of the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Aladeshun] This morning, the chairman of Nadeco sent an emissary to Chief Adekunle Ajasin, the patriarch of Nadeco, to announce that the proposed meeting for today had been canceled, that he received an instruction from Abuja. He was already in Akure, which is about 40 km from this point, so, that a meeting couldn't take place today.

[Badu-Addo] And what do you make of this rather last minute change of plan?

[Aladeshun] Chief Adekunle Ajasin then decided to issue a press statement to inform the entire Nigerian public that it was not Nadeco that is being obstinate; it was because the government was not ready for any discussion.

[Badu-Addo] We have some reports saying that the government apparently was not happy you were going to talk about the Abiola issue for example. I mean, do you have anything to say about that?

[Aladeshun] Well, as I said, we don't know exactly what is happening in the court of the government but what

we know is that in their own letter to us sometime... [pauses] about six weeks ago now, the man told us the guidelines given to him in his letter and he said in view of this, he was going to meet us. Of course, whatever we raised in our memo, which is now a public document, was directed toward the guideline which he gave to us.

[Badu-Addo] So the government has effectively snubbed you at this last minute. What are you going to do now?

[Aladeshun?] Well, if snubbed is the word you prefer to chose, but well, we will keep on pressing for dialogue because it is not ourselves alone that are disappointed at this last minute crash, it is millions of Nigerians, it is the expectations of millions of Nigerians that were dashed. [end recording]

Sierra Leone**Sierra Leone: Minister Pleads With RUF Rebels To Sign Peace Accord**

*AB2307112196 Freetown SLBS Radio in English
0700 GMT 23 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The deputy minister of defense, Captain Retired Samuel Hilla Mamman, has reassured the people of Bo that security and peace in the country will continue to receive the government's top priority. Rtd. Capt. Mamman, who was on a three-day official visit to Bo, was addressing a cross-section of the Bo community during which he pleaded with the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] to sign the peace accord in the interest of stability, unity, and development. The deputy defense minister spoke of government's rehabilitation and repatriation program for the rebels, and called on them to take full advantage of government's amnesty and join in the reconstruction and development of the country. [passage omitted]

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